Senete and is at Committee stage. The attitude of the U S administration towards the bill is not clear as yet. Therefore, it is considered premature to take up the matter with the US administration at this stage.

Abolition of Value Based Advance Licensing System

@@ 1260. SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD MATHUR : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering abolition of value based advance licensing system and to introduce new procedure to refund excise and customs paid by companies ;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard ;

(c) what drawbacks have been noticed in the existing policy ; and

(d) what are the advantages of the new policy ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Non Payment of Salaries to MITCO Workers

1261. SHRI MD. SALIM : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the MITCO workers of Giridih and Jhuria Tilariya Factories have not been paid their salary for months ; if so, facts in detail giving the period for which the payment has not been made ; and the reasons for non-payment ;

(b) whether this is also true for the workers of the MITCO in Rajasthan and Andhra Pradesh ;

(c) whether it is a fact that in the period of non-payment to the general workers, payment was made for V.R.S to a large number of workers ; if so, facts in details giving the dates of payment made in the last two years till 1st December, 1993 and the amount spent on that and the number of workers who retired ; and

(d) reasons for not paying general monthly salaries while paying general monthly salaries while paying for the V.R.S. ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) to (d) MITCO has not been able to generate adequate funds to meet its commitments towards payment of salaries to its employees since may, 1993. However arrangements are being made to pay their salaries including arrears.

The total number of employees who opted for VRS and the amount paid towards VRS and the months of payment are detailed below :—

	1992-93	1993-94 (upto 1-12-93)
Number of employees who opted for VRS	417	137
Amount paid	385.47 (Rs. Lakhs)	148.31 (Rs. Lakhs)
Month of payment	July, 1992 July, 1993, Oct., 1992, March, 1993	

The entire amount was advanced by MMTC to MITCO to enable it to make the above payments. Separately, MMTC has also submitted a proposal to Government for release of this amount from the National Renewal Fund.

@@ Previously Unstarred Question 477, transferred from 7th December, 1993.